

# Weekly National Intelligencer.

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## Weekly National Intelligencer.

By GALE & SEATON.

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## THE NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY.

It is a matter of profound regret to us that, in congratulating our readers on the return of this National Holiday, we are again called to do so amid the sights and sounds of war. From the heights of that peace and prosperity in which the country once rejoiced, it has been plunged into the depths of an adversity almost unparalleled in the history of civil strife and convulsion.

Eighty-seven years have passed away since our Revolutionary fathers assembled in Continental Congress and, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions, solemnly published and declared, in the name and by the authority of the people, that "the United Colonies" "united" formerly under the rule of the British Crown, and then "united" in a common struggle against British power—"were and of right ought to be free and independent States." If we were insensible to the political blessings bequeathed to us by the founders of the Republic, while as yet those blessings were in our peaceful possession and enjoyment, it is certain that the sense of our present loss can serve only to heighten the feeling of our obligation to the great men who have gone before us in the history of our land. At the same time we cannot but lament the phrensy of such among our countrymen as are this day engaged in upturning the foundations on which the fathers builded the fabric of our political system. The armed men who now seek to compass the overthrow of this Government can find no justification for their dreadful arbitrament in the terms of the Declaration of Independence.

American liberty, it is true, was born of a revolution and baptized in the blood of a seven years' struggle; yet the Liberty which our fathers founded on the basis of the Constitution of the United States was so guarded with muniments and buttresses of Law that they supposed themselves to have released their posterity for all time to come from the grievous necessity of claiming civil rights at the point of the sword; for, hardly had they achieved their independence, when they proceeded to exercise the high prerogative right of the people to "alter and abolish" ancient forms of Government and to institute a new polity instead, "laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them seemed most likely to effect their safety and happiness." With a wisdom in counsel equal to the valor which had been shown in the field, the framers of our present Constitution were not only themselves the first to set the example of peacefully re-adjusting the organic law of the Republic, but they sought to open up a highway by which their descendants might reach all needed reforms, without, as in less-favored lands, being laid under the cruel necessity of wading through seas of blood to attain them.

While the Convention which formed the Constitution of the United States was in session at Philadelphia, Mr. Jefferson, then representing our country at the Court of France, wrote as follows, in a letter addressed to M. Dumas, under date of September 10, 1787:

"Our Federal Convention is likely to sit till October. There is a general disposition throughout the States to adopt what they shall propose, and we may be assured their propositions will be wise, as a more noble assembly never sat in America. Happily for us, when we find our Constitution defective and insufficient to secure the happiness of our people, we can assemble with all the coolness of philosophers and set it to rights, while every other nation on earth must have recourse to arms to amend or to restore their Constitutions."

It cannot be doubted that the framers of the Constitution supposed themselves to have sufficiently guarded against the necessity of any revolutionary violence for the purpose of changing the form or relations of the National Government. It is true they did not proceed on the supposition that their work was infallible, or that in the years to come it might not need revision and modification; but, by providing a peaceful and constitutional method for the attainment of amendments to the Constitution, they did undoubtedly mean to exclude those forms of violence which in despotic Governments are the natural and inevitable outlets of the popular discontent, so soon as it has reached a certain intensity in its opposition to the powers that be.

The Fifth Article of the Constitution, so far from assuming that the instrument was to be held and considered as unalterable, expressly names and designates the manner in which amendments may be proposed and ratified, and, in order that the interests and wishes, both of the States and of the National Government, might be equally and severally consulted in the power to originate amendments, it is ordered by that article not only "that the Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution," but also that, "on application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States, Congress shall call a Convention for proposing amendments, which in either case shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as parts of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, or by the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress."

It is known to all that by virtue of this provision

twelve articles have at different periods been added to the Constitution of the United States by way of explanation, definition, or amendment, and thus the nation has repeatedly set its seal to the sufficiency and eligibility of this mode for the obtaining of what has been deemed useful reforms in the letter of that instrument.

The clear expression in the Constitution of the right and means of peaceful modification of the Government is of course tantamount to an exclusion of the right of revolution by force for the same ends. Nor in giving utterance to this sentiment do we speak without the authority of great names which give weight to any opinion.

When in the year 1842 a portion of the people of Rhode Island assumed the "right" of employing force to substitute the authority of Mr. Dorr, and of the Constitution under which he claimed to act, for the legitimate Governor of the State acting under the modified charter of Charles II, it was ruled by the Executive and Judicial Departments of the National Government that no such right pertained to any State or part of a State under the Constitution of the Union. President Tyler promptly placed the national forces at the command of the regularly constituted authorities for the purpose of aiding to put down the rebellion, which, discarding the forms of political agitation, had assumed the proportions of an armed opposition to the existing organization of the State. The principle on which this was done received the sanction of Mr. Calhoun, then a member of Mr. Tyler's Cabinet, and in a letter written from his home in South Carolina, under date of July 3, 1843, he declared it to be the "duty of the Federal Government, under the guarantees of the Constitution, promptly to suppress physical force as an element of change, and to keep wide open the door for the full and free action of all the moral elements in its favor." In this letter Mr. Calhoun argued against the rightfulness or necessity of a resort to force for the redress of grievances, to remedy which the Government had provided an organic agency, open to all the States, under such limitations and restrictions as had become of binding obligation on them all by virtue of their accession to the Constitution. To this effect he then wrote as follows, and we invite particular attention to his views because of their bearing on this discussion:

"All changes in the fundamental law of a State ought to be the work of time, ample discussion, and reflection; and no people who lack the requisite perseverance to go through the slow and difficult process necessary at once to guard against improper innovations and to insure wise and salutary changes, or who are ready to resort to revolution instead of reform, where reform may be practicable, can preserve their liberty. Nor would it be desirable, if it were practicable, to make the requisite changes without going through a long previous process of discussion and agitation."

"The very complication of our system of Government, so many distinct, sovereign, and independent States, each with its separate Government, and all united under one, is calculated to give a force to discussion and agitation never before known, and to cause a diffusion of political intelligence heretofore unknown in the history of the world, if the Federal Government shall do its duty under the guarantees of the Constitution by promptly suppressing physical force as an element of change, and keeping wide open the door for the full and free action of all the moral elements in its favor. No people ever had so fair a start. All that is lacking is, that we shall understand, in all its great and beautiful proportions, the noble political structure reared by the wisdom and patriotism of our ancestors, and to have the virtue and the sense to preserve and protect it."

The justice of this view must be clear to all. Would that all our countrymen had the virtue and sense to act according to its imperative suggestions! Then would the sword fall from the hands of those who are now arrayed against the peace and dignity of the State.

## THE REMOVAL OF GEN. CURTIS.

We find in a Western paper the subjoined excellent letter from the PRESIDENT to General SCHOFIELD, which it is proper for us to copy as explanatory of his reasons for an important official act. In this case, however, the insertion of the letter is a pleasure as well as a duty; for we have seldom seen any thing from the President's pen at once so characteristic of the simplicity which marks the expression of his thoughts, and of the good sense and directness which distinguish his decisions whenever left to the guidance of his own untrammelled judgment. Excellent in all its parts, as a whole the letter is unique. How clearly he points out to his lieutenant the path of duty and safety in his difficult trust! With what sagacity he counsels him, "If both factions abuse you, or neither, you will be right. Beware of being assailed by one and praised by the other!"

## EXECUTIVE MANSION.

WASHINGTON, MAY 27, 1863.

"DEAR SIR: Having removed Gen. Curtis and assigned you to the command of the Department of the Missouri, I think it may be of some advantage for me to state to you why I did it. I did not remove Gen. Curtis because of my full conviction that he had done wrong by commission or omission. I did it because of a conviction in my mind that the Union men of Missouri, constituting, when united, a vast majority of the whole people, have entered into a pestilential factional quarrel among themselves—Gen. Curtis, perhaps not of choice, being the head of one faction, and Governor Gamble that of the other. After months of labor to reconcile the difficulty, it seemed to grow worse and worse, until I felt it my duty to break it up somehow; and as I could not remove Gov. Gamble I had to remove Gen. Curtis. Now that you are in the position, I wish you to do nothing merely because Gen. Curtis or Gov. Gamble did it; but to exercise your own judgment and do right for the public interest. Let your military measures be strong enough to repel the invaders and keep the peace, and not so strong as to unnecessarily harass and persecute the people. It is a difficult role, and so much greater will be the honor if you perform it well. If both factions, or neither, shall abuse you, you will probably be about right. Beware of being assailed by one and praised by the other."

"Yours, truly,

"Gen. J. M. SCHOFIELD."

Col. E. W. WEBSTER has been nominated for reelection to Congress from the State of Maryland by the Union Convention of the second Congressional district, which met at Baltimore on Thursday last. The Colonel is now in the field in command of the Seventh Regiment of Maryland Volunteers. He ably represented the same district, then the third, in the last Congress. His competitor for the nomination were the Hon. C. L. L. Levy and Joseph J. Stewart. The first ballot resulted as follows: Webster 58, Stewart 54, Levy 15. The nomination of Col. Webster was then made unanimous, and the Convention adjourned sine die.

## TWO POLITICAL SCHOOLS COMPARED.

All experience combines with all sound political philosophy to demonstrate the proposition that civil governments are not made, when wisely made, according to any abstract theory of pure natural rights. There is no form of political organization in which statements are not made from such rights, as metaphysically conceived in the domain of social speculation. These metaphysical rights, entering into common life, are, as Burke phrases it, refracted like rays of light which pierce into a dense medium from the straight line of ideal regularity. The pretended "rights" of these theorists are adds the great British statesman, all extremes of thought, and in proportion as they are metaphysically true, they are morally and politically false. The rights of men, as modified by society and by the political conventions which antedate all social arrangements, are a sort of mean resulting from compromise sometimes between the best attainable good and the least necessary of evils, while sometimes, such is the infirmity of human nature, that the choice has to be made between greater and less degrees of evil.

In our country we have long had two political schools, which, in different lines of direction, have illustrated the spirit and tendencies of speculative rather than practical politics. On the one hand, the disciples of Mr. Calhoun, growing more and more disaffected towards the arrangements of the National Constitution which bind Slaveholding and non-Slaveholding States in a Federal Union, have sighed for a Republic founded on a community of social instincts recognising a natural and unchangeable inequality of races with a pre-established harmony resulting from the mastery of the one race and the subordination of the other. On the other hand, the theorists who demand that the arrangements of the State shall be ordered according to speculative notions of natural rights, growing equally disaffected towards a system which recognises and tolerates the existence of a social evil such as slavery, have sought to reform our polity according to their abstract conceptions of justice, without due regard to the established demarcations of political power within which alone they had the power lawfully to act. To these reformers the evil of slavery has appeared the one anomaly which more than ought else deserved to be extirpated at every hazard and at whatever cost. It was not enough to have universal freedom as the aspiration and ultimate goal of all men embraced in the figure of American society, but this great consummation must be reached *per saltum*, and without regard to those historic laws of reform which mark the workings of Divine Providence in the gradual elevation of races.

We have been reminded of these two schools of political thinkers and of the practical likeness which exists between them, while their paths are so divergent, by some remarks which the present Postmaster General, the Hon. Montgomery Blair, recently offered at Concord, in the State of New Hampshire. He said:

"There are two kinds of conspiring politicians at opposite ends of the Union that make slavery a fulcrum on which they would play see-saw with the Government, and willingly break it in the middle and demolish it to make way for the franchise in reconstruction. Calhoun's scheme is to destroy every free principle, because repugnant to the perpetuity and propagation of slavery universally as the only safe foundation of good government—Phillips's plan would subject all our systems of government to the guillotine of revolutionary tribunals, because they recognise the existence of different races among us, of white, red, and black; because they repudiate the idea of equality and fraternity in regard to citizenship that tends to produce that amalgamation, personal and political, which would make our Government one of mongrel races; and because they authorize legislation, State and National, which may exclude them from taking root in the soil and Government of the country. The white man has excluded the Indian race from dominion on this continent, its native-born interior; the African was introduced on it, not as its owner or to give it law, but to be owned, as a conqueror, and under this aspect the white man, as a conqueror, has accommodated the constitutions of the country to his own condition—that of the ruling race. The ground which Wendell Phillips and his followers take is not merely to alter the law and enfranchise the races held under it, but to abolish the constitutions which recognize that right as established, and admit to equal participation those races hitherto excluded as inferiors."

After remarking that the Free States of the North exclude the manumitted slaves from their soil, avowing the abhorrent feeling of caste as an insuperable bar to the association on any terms, much less of equality, Mr. Blair asks how it can be expected that the people of the Southern States will acquiesce in arrangements which proceed on the assumption that this excommunicated race, surrendered by them as slaves, should be retained, nevertheless, among them, and admitted as equals and as partners in political power, in defiance of the Constitution of the United States, and the laws even of the Northern States, which brand them with the badge of inferiority and political disability? He adds:

"Would not the inextinguishable memory of wrongs on one side, and of admitted sinners on the other, make a peaceful acquiescence on either side impossible? All the bloodiest revolutions of ancient and modern times were those broached by slaves against enslavers. Our civil war, closing in the manumission of four million of slaves, to take equal rank with six million of enslavers, would be the prelude to a civil war of extermination. The advocates of this hybrid policy know this, but they think the negro so essential to the selfish purposes of their political ambition, that Calhoun, they are willing to make him, as well as those who hold him in duress, the victim to their hollowing. They advocate a plan of saving both and ministering to their prosperity and to their elevation in their respective spheres to power and greatness as a people."

The President's plan, it is known, looks to a gradual segregation of the two races, and assigning to each the regions on this continent and adjacent isles congenial to their nature. This plan the speaker enforced in the following terms:

"Instead of the mutual benefits which the President's plan proposes to draw out of our present adversity, what do these ultra humanitarians offer? They profess so much philanthropy in the abstract, and such imperfect impartiality in judgment of human affairs, that they seem to think the millennium come, and invite the lion and the lamb to do down together. They would break up all constitutional laws, and usages, assuming that all antagonisms of interests, of prejudices, of passions were at an end and in a land

of letters and whips; of swords, guns, and bayonets in the hands of six millions of incensed masters; and that four millions of their manumitted slaves might be safely trusted to the tender mercies. This is a practical illustration of the W. m. l. Phillips love for the down trodden African."

"But the Phillipsian probably do not expect the amalgamation, liberty, equality, and fraternity theory to be acceptable to the present ruling class, but intend that the Northern white man, while rejecting it for himself, shall enforce it on the Southern white man. Unfortunately for this scheme the Northern soldier is becoming a Southern white man himself, and he wants the lands he redeems from nullification for himself and his posterity and as an inheritance for his race!"

"The result of this antagonism, so far as popular government is concerned, would be the same if either could succeed in their schemes, and you would scarcely have much preference between being governed by J. F. Davis as the leader of the slave power, and Wendell Phillips as the leader of the enfranchised blacks. But neither can succeed. Even the Calhoun scheme, matured through so many years of intrigue by men versed in public affairs and attended with a temporary success, is a failure as a governing contrivance, though potent still to render ruin vile by the land, and especially to degrade the homes of the deluded followers. The Phillips scheme is the dream of visionaries wholly unskilled in Government, and will be a failure from the start. He may in turn make victims of the negroes as Calhoun has of their masters. But I think not."

## THE BRAZILIAN DIFFICULTY ARBITRATED.

It will be remembered by our readers that in the month of June, 1862, a disturbance occurred in Rio de Janeiro between the officers of a British frigate in that port and the Brazilian local authorities, which subsequently became a topic of international inquiry and controversy between the Governments of Great Britain and Brazil. The question in dispute was referred to the King of Belgium for his arbitration, and that monarch has just rendered his decision in favor of the rightfulness of the conduct of the Brazilian authorities in the premises. The award made by His Majesty to this effect has been communicated by the Brazilian Minister at Brussels to Mr. LISBOA, the Minister of Brazil near our Government, in the following despatch:

## IMPERIAL LEGATION OF BRAZIL.

Brussels, June 23, 1863.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND EXCELLENT SIR: It is with the greatest satisfaction that I communicate to your Excellency that the King of Belgium has just rendered his decision in favor of the King of the English frigate Forte, and which His Majesty concludes in the following terms: "We are of opinion that in the manner in which the Brazilian laws were applied to the English officers there was neither premeditation of offence nor offence itself against the British navy."

Joining with your Excellency in congratulations on this subject, I have the honor to offer you the assurances of my highest consideration.

JOAQUIM THOMAS DO AMARAL.

To his excellency Counsellor MIGUEL MARIA LISBOA.

## THE CAPTURED DESPATCHES TO GEN. LEE.

## THE OBJECT OF HIS INVASION.

A letter to the New York Tribune, dated in Washington on the 5th instant, states that the intercepted despatches from Gen. J. E. Brown and his Adjutant General to Gen. Lee reveal the latter's campaign, the reasons why it was not carried out, the points to which the rebel Government is sending reinforcements, and the precarious condition in which it considers its capital to be. According to these despatches, as the writer learns through trustworthy channels, Gen. Lee invaded Pennsylvania without the knowledge of Gen. Davis, who, it would appear, did not altogether approve of the movement. The object of the campaign was the capture of Washington, which was to be effected in this wise: Lee was to draw Hooker into Pennsylvania sufficiently far to uncover Washington, which Beauregard, with thirty thousand men, to be concentrated at Culpeper Court-house, was then to attack and take. But, as further appears from these despatches, Gen. Davis felt unable to spare Beauregard thirty thousand men, or any number of men, to co-operate with Lee. He said that he considered the need of Johnston, who was constantly calling for reinforcements to make his army sufficiently strong to relieve Vicksburg, "the vital point," decidedly more imperative than that of Gen. Lee, and had therefore sent him all the men that could be spared by Beauregard or Bragg. Nor could reinforcements be sent from Virginia. Richmond, as Gen. Lee is officially assured, is seriously threatened, and so small is its garrison that the citizens are organizing for its defence. The rebel Adjutant General Cooper gives the number of troops in Richmond, at Petersburg, and on the Blackwater, and undertakes to state the strength of the national army by which he conceives the rebel capital to be threatened.

## IMPORTATION FROM MEXICO.

## THE CAPITAL OCCUPIED BY THE FRENCH.

HAVANA, JUNE 30, 1863.

By the French steamer Vera Cruz, which left Vera Cruz on the 16th and arrived at Santiago de Cuba on the 22d, we have important news from Mexico, brought us from Santiago by the Spanish steamer Pajaro del Ocaso, which arrived here yesterday morning.

The French army occupied the city of Mexico on the 3d instant, and Gen. Forey took formal possession on the 10th.

On the arrival of the French army before Mexico a deputation of the foreign consuls left the city to apprise the General-in-Chief that no resistance would be made, and another, composed of citizens, carried the same information to Gen. Bazaine, requesting his speedy entrance, to prevent the disorder likely to arise in a city without a government, the President Benito Juarez having with the officers and official archives, escorted by the garrison, consisting of about six thousand men and some artillery, fled to San Luis Potosi, which city has been declared the capital of the Republic. The French, we are told, have sent a division of troops against it, and it is reported that in case a stand cannot be made, Juarez and the capital will remove to Guadalupe, and thence the route laid out in Zacatecas, Victoria, Durango, and Chihuahua.

We are told that Forey was received in Mexico with the greatest enthusiasm; that the streets were strewn with flowers; a Te Deum was chanted in the Cathedral; that illuminations and fireworks testified the joy of the people for the arrival of the army which is to bring them civilization, order, justice, peace, and true liberty. These are the French accounts, however, and the official despatches speak of "the delirium of the people who threw themselves before Forey and his staff." (How fortunate the streets were so well covered with flowers!) The French and Mexican flags were over the Cathedral—that of France alone on the National Palace, and only that of Mexico over the municipal buildings. A public concert was given in the public square on the evening of the 11th. Allegorical triumphal cars paraded the streets, &c.

The Marquis de Galliford, who was wounded at Puebla, goes in the Vera Cruz to France, carrying the keys of the city of Mexico, and bearing the trophies of the provinces of the French eagles in Mexico. Two men-of-war have left Vera Cruz with six hundred prisoners—officers taken at Puebla—and two more are to start shortly with seven hundred more. These go to France as trophies also.

Gen. Forey issued a proclamation to the Mexican people, but it is couched in such general terms as to mean no thing, and consists of expressions of good-will and desires for the prosperity of Mexico.

Alfonso will be elected President rather through the majority of French bayonets than by Mexican votes, and then follows the surrender of Sonora, &c.

## CONSCRIPTION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Orders have been received by the Provost Marshals of the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th districts of Massachusetts to begin drafting immediately, in order to obtain 15,519 men, the quota required for these seven districts. The draft is ordered because the Government is ready for it, and had long since proposed to begin the operation at the earliest possible period.

## GOOD NEWS FROM TENNESSEE.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT CUMBERLAND, Tallahoma, (Tenn.) July 1, Via Murfreesboro, July 2, 1863.

## Major General HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

I telegraphed you on Sunday of the occupation of Shelbyville and Manchester. On Monday it rained hard all day, rendering the roads impassable. It was found impossible to move our artillery or to get our troops into position until this morning, when a general advance was ordered at daylight.

Gen. Thomas yesterday made a reconnaissance on two roads and Gen. McCook on one road, reporting the enemy in force at this place, with the addition of Buckner's division, which arrived on Monday evening.

On advancing this morning it was found that the enemy had fled in haste last night, much demoralized. Strong fortifications, a small quantity of stores, and three siege guns are in our possession. They took the direction of Winchester. Thomas should be on their flank to-night. Sheridan and Brannin marched into town to-day at eleven and a half, taking a few prisoners.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major General.

## UNOFFICIAL DESPATCH.

COLORADO CHURCH, JUNE 30, 8 P. M.—A reconnaissance by Gen. Steadman this afternoon has pushed within two miles of Tallahoma. Gen. Thomas accompanied the column, and reports the enemy in force in their works, with videttes thrown out a short distance from their front.

It is thought by me that a mere shell of the rebel army remains in Tennessee, which is doubtless a mistake. We found four brigades at Hoover's Gap, four at Liberty Gap, and our friends at Shelbyville saw eighteen thousand men of Polk's corps passing through that place. Chatham's division is reported having moved to Elk River bridge.

Dechard bridge, which has been destroyed, can hardly be rebuilt before six days, when all will be decided. While the loss of this bridge will not prevent reinforcements coming, the rebels cannot carry off their stores or heavy munitions of war.

## SUCCESSFUL ADVANCE OF THE UNION ARMY.

## THE REBELS STILL RETREATING.

TALLAHOMA, JULY 4.—The telegraph wires have been extended, and the following is a summary of the operations of the last three days:

The works prove much stronger than heretofore supposed. Fort Rains, a large bastion, is the centre of a series of strong outer works, bearing upon every road and important point in the vicinity. The real weakness of Bragg was in not holding Manchester. As soon as Rosecrans took Manchester and advanced toward Winchester, he flanked an equal or inferior force at Tallahoma. As soon as the head of our column got south of Tallahoma Bragg evacuated that place. We have captured four siege guns and a large amount of meat and other provisions.

After finding Tallahoma evacuated, Rosecrans threw forward his forces in rapid pursuit. The situation on the night of the 1st instant was as follows: Gen. McCook at East Springs, with Buckner opposite the forks; Thomas at a point two miles up the river, with the enemy on the opposite bank. The main rebel army, in the vicinity of Winchester and Dechard, were in camp, ready to move into the mountains.

Headquarters were established at Tallahoma the same night, and Crittenden, with a full corps, sent by a rapid march to take possession of the road leading from Dechard, via Tracy City, to Chattanooga. This was successful and forced the rebels to take the road across the mountains.

On the morning of the 2d McCook crossed at the mouth of Rock Creek, below the enemy's position in front of our right, and thus flanked the enemy, who withdrew to Winchester and the mountains. The fight ended at 2 P. M., and the troops were unable to cross until the morning of the 3d. They moved only a short distance; Negley encamped on the battle field and Rosecrans and Brannan on the bank of the river. Gen. McCook in the mean time advanced to and occupied Winchester, Dechard, and Covan.

This morning the whole force advanced to the foot of the mountain, to find the enemy gone.

We have lost not over eleven hundred men by casualties of all kinds. Our troops have suffered most from alternate heat and rain. We have from fifteen hundred to two thousand prisoners, and many deserters.

The enemy is entirely out of Tennessee, and our communications intact. The railroad will be in running order to this point to-morrow.

TALLAHOMA, JULY 6—three o'clock A. M.—Major Gen. Thomas has succeeded in crossing the Elk river, with a corps and a division of cavalry, under Gen. Stanley, and is in close pursuit of Bragg's army, with every prospect of capturing their wagon train and rear guard.

Major Gen. Sherman occupied Winchester this morning, his advance driving out the rear guard of the rebels, and at last accounts he was pushing them hard.

It is thought that Bragg can hardly cross the mountains without suffering a severe loss, and perhaps being forced into a battle. Our loss during the campaign in killed is between four and five hundred; wounded about three hundred. The enemy's loss is more than double, besides about one thousand prisoners; and, with a battle and the necessary loss of life, the enemy have been driven out of Tennessee.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE COLUMBIA BRIDGE.

COLUMBIA, JUNE 29.—The great bridge over the Susquehanna, which was destroyed last night, was constructed in 1834, and cost \$157,000. It was 5,620 feet long, fourteen feet above high water, built of wood, and about forty feet wide; had two tracks, also, used for vehicles and foot passengers, and tow paths, the latter for the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal. The conflagration was a sublime sight, the entire length being on fire at once, with the buildings at Wrightsville and floating, blazing timbers in the stream. The rebels were on the other bank and the adjacent hills, and crowds of males and females on this side gazing at the sight. The fire department here was in service constantly to save the eastern end of the bridge, but it was useless. The retreat of the troops, the firing of the bridge, and shell and shot falling into the river created a panic here, and the skeddaddles continued during the night, as the shelling of the town was anticipated. We had no artillery in the entrenchments. Before the fight piles of lumber and empty freight cars were placed in Wrightville to check the enemy, and were successful. The order from Harrisburg to prevent the rebels from crossing was imperative, and the destruction of the bridge was absolutely necessary.

## THE EVIL OF SHORT ENLISTMENTS.

Under this heading the Baltimore American of yesterday says: "The evil of short enlistments is seen in the return of regiments at the time when the Government most needs their services. Within a few days three regiments have passed through here northward, with full ranks, neither of which had ever fired a shot in action or been near a battle-field. Does any one suppose that there is a regiment in the rebel service that has been nine months in the field without an opportunity to test its mettle?"

On Tuesday last the Twenty-fifth Maine Regiment, numbering about seven hundred men, Col. Fossenden, marched from Virginia and took the train for their homes, their term of service having expired. The Twenty-seventh Regiment from the same State, numbering six hundred men, Col. Hill, arrived here on Tuesday afternoon and left yesterday morning. The Twenty-third Maine Regiment also started for home on Monday.

## BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

## VICTORIOUS NEWS.

## LEE DEFEATED.

## GEN. HILL AND GEN. LONGSTREET WOUNDED AND PRISONERS.

## LEE'S PONTON BRIDGES DESTROYED

The latest authentic news from the scene of action at Gettysburg contained in our paper of Saturday was embodied in the following despatches of General MEADE:

## HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

July 2—11 o'clock at night.

The enemy attacked me about four P. M. this day, and, after one of the severest contests of the war, he was repulsed at all points. We have suffered considerably in killed and wounded. Among the former are Brig. Gen. Paul and Zook, and among the wounded Gen. Sickles, Barlow, Graham, and Warren slightly. We have taken a large number of prisoners.

## HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

July 3—eight o'clock in the morning.

The action commenced again at early daylight upon various parts of the line. The enemy thus far have made no impression upon my position. All accounts agree in placing the whole (rebel) army here. Prisoners report Longstreet's and A. P. Hill's forces much injured yesterday, and many general officers killed. Gen. Barksdale's (of Mississippi) dead body is within our lines. We have thus far about sixteen hundred prisoners, and a small number yet to be started.

## ANOTHER DESPATCH FROM GEN. MEADE.

On Saturday last the following despatch was received at the War Department from General Meade, briefly stating the results of Friday's battle:

## HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

Near Gettysburg, July 3—8:35 P. M.

## Major General HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

The enemy opened at 1 P. M. from about one hundred and fifty guns, concentrating upon my left centre, continuing without intermission for about three hours, at the expiration of which time he assaulted my left centre twice, being upon both occasions handsomely repulsed with severe loss to him, leaving in our hands nearly three thousand prisoners.

Among the prisoners is Brig. Gen. Armistead and many colonels and officers of lower rank. The enemy left many dead upon the field and a large number of wounded in our hands.

The loss upon our side has been considerable. Major General Hancock and Brigadier General Gibbon were wounded.

After the repelling of the assault, indications leading to the belief that the enemy might be withdrawing, an armed reconnaissance was pushed forward from the left, and the enemy found to be in force.

At the present hour all is quiet.

My cavalry have been engaged all day on both flanks of the enemy, harassing and vigorously attacking him with great success, notwithstanding they encountered superior numbers, both of cavalry and infantry.

The army is in fine spirits.

GEORGE G. MEADE, Major General Comd.

## CONGRATULATORY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President on Saturday morning, in the following brief address, announced to the country his appreciation of the services of the brave men composing the Army of the Potomac, who have so gallantly maintained at this important crisis the cause of the Republic:

WASHINGTON, JULY 4—10 A. M. 1863.

The President announces to the country that news from the Army of the Potomac up to 10 o'clock P. M. of the 3d is such as to cover that army with the highest honor, to promise a great success to the cause of the Union, and to claim the confidence of all for the many gallant fallen; and that for this he especially desires that on this day He whose will, not ours, should ever be done, be every where remembered and revered with profound gratitude.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.